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SIPDIS

STATE ALSO PASS TO USAID
USAID/W FOR A/AID ANDREW NATSIOS, JBRAUSE
DCHA/OFDA KISAACS, GGOTTLIEB, MMARX, RTHAYER, BDEEMER
AID/W FOR DCHA/OFDA
SOUTH ASIA RESPONSE MANAGEMENT TEAM
SOUTH ASIA EARTHQUAKE TASK FORCE
DCHA/FFP FOR LAUREN LANDIS
ANE DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR MARK WARD
BANGKOK FOR OFDA SENIOR REGIONAL ADVISOR TOM DOLAN
KATHMANDU FOR OFDA REGIONAL ADVISOR WILLIAM BERGER
ROME PASS FODAG
GENEVA FOR RMA AND NKYLOH
NSC FOR JMELINE
EUCOM FOR POLA/J3/J4/J5
BRUSSELS FOR USAID PLERNER
NEW YORK FOR TMALY
SECDEF FOR SOLIC/PKHA, USDP/J3
JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC FOR J3/J4/J5
HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE FOR J3/J5

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SUBJECT: PAKISTAN - EARTHQUAKE: USAID/DART SITUATION REPORT
#7

Summary

1. From October 22 to 23, a team of three Foreign Service nationals from USAID/Pakistan conducted an assessment in Muzaffarabad and several villages that were affected by the earthquake. The team visited Muzaffarabad city, Shaeed Gali, Hasan Gali, Jabbi Haider Shah, Lamian Battian, and Gari Habibullah. The team conducted assessments in the health, shelter, livelihoods, and education sectors. End summary.

Current Situation

2. The team met with Government of Pakistan (GOP) officials, including the Chief of the Education, Planning, and Development Department and the Additional Home Secretary for Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) to discuss the current situation. The team learned that the earthquake destroyed the majority of GOP buildings in Muzaffarabad, including civil secretariat buildings, district government offices, and the judicial complex. The remaining buildings that are still standing have not been inspected or cleared and cannot be used unless they are assessed or repaired. The majority of school buildings (primary, secondary, high, and university) are destroyed or completely damaged.

3. These GOP officials told the team that the GOP's Annual Development Plan (budget) is being reprioritized for earthquake relief. The Asian Development Bank project has also been reprioritized for education. U.N. liaison offices have been established in Muzaffarabad, but there is no AJK government-led coordination system in place.

4. The USAID team reported that the GOP sent out teams for assessments in areas that are accessible. The North West Frontier Province (NWFP) provincial government is establishing teams that are going house to house in affected areas giving vouchers to affected residents. The villagers must come to a main office to receive relief supplies that are listed on the voucher. The team reported that planning for relief activities must take into account the access restrictions of different affected areas: easy access by main roads; medium access by main roads/jeep-able tracks, short walking tracks; and remote/no access by roads. For local transportation to villages from the city center, porters with donkeys and small jeeps are available. Due to the difficulty of access to some villages, the GOP is trying to bring people from higher altitude, inaccessible areas to lower, accessible areas for the winter.

5. The team met with residents in rural areas and most people are worried about shelter for the upcoming winter. Many residents in earthquake-affected areas are afraid to use structures that are partially damaged. People are receiving emergency supplies, but not in adequate quantities and not in all locations. People who are the least affected are receiving the most assistance as they are located closer to distribution points or are able-bodied.

6. The team reported that buildings constructed using stone

masonry were the most affected in terms of damage. Most houses in rural areas use stone, wood, and soil (for roofs). Those residents who are more affluent use cement blocks for walls. Some residents have already started clearing up space and are thinking of temporary shelter for winter. In terms of shelter, tents are not the only option, and the team believes that using tin sheets as well as tarpaulin sheets on structures is an option. The team noted that in Muzaffarabad, there are between 1,500 and 2,000 masons who could be trained to assist with reconstruction.

17. The onset of winter is a problem as rains and snow in higher altitude villages will arrive soon. However the team reports that major infrastructure damage occurred in areas that do not receive snow. Many residents are sleeping outside in school spaces as the spaces around their houses are full of debris. The team reported that residents seem eager to participate in a cash-for-work program for rebuilding damaged houses or rubble removal.

Shelter

18. Tents or temporary shelter are the major concern of all affected residents. Most of the rural residents located in accessible villages, near roads, and in areas where snowfall is not heavy do not want to move away from their land. Some have animals and stored food but no shelter and are sleeping outside.

19. Other residents in rural areas have already started clearing space and are thinking about reconstruction but are constrained by lack of resources. These residents have requested iron/tin sheets for roofs as they feel that even a tent will not be sufficient after snowfall, and they want to build a temporary room for the winter.

110. The USAID/DART is working with USAID/Pakistan to re-establish schools using tents from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). DOD Seabees are also engaged in large rubble removal and the USAID/DART is supporting cash-for-work activities for hand rubble removal and site preparation removal. These emergency interventions will lay the groundwork for some of USAID/Pakistan's longer-term reconstruction initiatives.

Livelihoods

11. According to the team, most community members in affected areas, especially young men who were day laborers in various businesses, are out of jobs and need a source of income. This is an immediate requirement as many adults and young people who worked in hotels, garages, transport, and daily labor are currently unemployed. Some options for cash for work include debris removal, restoring sanitation facilities, and reconstruction activities.

112. Women in rural areas assist in managing households, rearing cattle, collecting firewood, bringing water etc. They are dependent on men for the receipt of relief supplies. Women who have lost husbands and have young children are now dependent on communities for support. The team believes that creative ways can be used to get them involved in some sort of economic or reconstruction activity. The team suggested that widows could be included as educators in tent schools as some surviving teachers may not be able to return to the schools due to injuries or migration. Educated women may be able to be employed in health and education activities.

113. Cash-for-work or commodities-for-work will be an important activity. Cash alone might be an issue, as the cost of commodities rise. Muzaffarabad has manpower and skilled labor for construction, but they will need training for quality construction in case new design or materials are introduced. In rural areas, immediate reconstruction of houses may be possible but not in urban areas. Removal of debris is an important issue in urban areas. The GOP plans to build camps in accessible areas, and a center for orphaned children and widows is expected to be built in Muzaffarabad and Mirpur.

114. The team also reported that Muzaffarabad has two other population groups, in addition to the majority of local residents. There is a population of approximately 25,000 refugees from border areas of India and a similar number of migrant laborers. These groups are recipients of relief assistance and will also provide labor for reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Education

15. The team reported that both the old and new campuses of the University of AJK were completely destroyed in Muzaffarabad. There are some buildings on the new campus that are still standing, but they have cracks. The buildings will have to be assessed by experts. It is estimated that 250 students died. Eighty percent of the student population was from the neighboring districts of AJK.

16. Almost all the degree and inter-colleges have also been severely damaged. The reconstruction of the University of AJK is critical as this is the only university serving the region.

17. Tent schools are an immediate requirement in rural areas and in some parts of the city to bring normalcy to the lives of children affected by the earthquake. Almost 80 percent of schools have been damaged completely and require rubble removal for site clearance. All community members agreed that it is important to re-establish schools and involve children in some constructive activity that will assist them in getting over the trauma of the earthquake.

Health

18. According to the team, the buildings of the Combined Military Hospital (CMH), the largest tertiary care hospital, run by the Pakistani military through an agreement with the Government of AJK, have completely collapsed. According to the Commanding Officer (CO) of the CMH, the earthquake killed approximately 80 percent of the hospital staff.

19. The CMH was a 450-bed hospital with a staff of 350. Two-thirds of the staff was from the Pakistani military, and the rest were from the Government of AJK. The hospital also had a large training institute for paramedics. The team reported that all equipment has been destroyed, and medical assistance is being provided in the existing premises by the French Military Hospital Camp. There were no facilities nearby to refer complicated cases, until the U.S. Mobile army surgical hospital (MASH) opened on October 25.

20. The Department of Health in Muzaffarabad has effectively ceased to function as most staff are direct or indirect victims of the disaster and are not reporting for duty. Medical and surgical field teams report 2,000 patients are being treated daily in Muzaffarabad. The first three days after the earthquake, most patients were treated for trauma injuries. Currently, about 40 percent of patients are being treated for trauma, and the rest have acute respiratory infections.

21. The team heard that approximately 50 people are being operated on each day at Abbas Institute of Medical Sciences (AIMS), which is designated as the principal hospital in Muzaffarabad. The infrastructure at the Abbas hospital is intact, but it is not fully functional. Surgical services have been re-established with four operation theaters for general and orthopedic surgeons. The Pakistani military will transfer people and supplies to this hospital. Abbas hospital has also established a vaccination service. A dialysis unit is being set up in the next few days to prevent renal complications from crush injuries. Three vaccination centers and mobile teams have been established in Muzaffarabad (in the central camp, stadium camp, and Neelum Stadium) to vaccinate people against measles and tetanus.

22. According to statistics provided to the team by the Government of AJK, prior to the earthquake, there were 564 health facilities in AJK and NWFP, and the earthquake destroyed 291, partially damaged 74, and 199 health facilities are currently operational.

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